

encoding voice data in a signal to transmit using either the first speech coder or the second speech coder;

a signal strength detector in the mobile unit which determines the quality of the signals received by the mobile unit; and

a coder selector in the mobile unit which directs the mobile unit to switch from the first speech coder to the second speech coder when the quality of the signals exceeds predetermined levels, wherein the second speech encoder reduces power consumption in the mobile unit.

5. (Twice Amended) The wireless communication system of Claim 1, wherein
D2 the first speech coder is bit exact and the second speech coder is non-bit exact.

8. (Three Times Amended) A method of conserving power in a wireless communication system comprising the acts of:

D3 determining the quality of at least one signal received from a base station; and

selecting in a mobile unit a secondary speech coder when the signal quality exceeds a predetermined value, wherein the secondary speech coder is compatible with a primary speech coder.

12. (Amended) The method of Claim 8, wherein the secondary speech coder is
D4 one of a family of speech coders which can exchange compatible data.

18. (Three Times Amended) A wireless communication system comprising;
D5 a processor usage indicator which determines the loading on a processor in a mobile unit; and

a speech coder selector in a mobile unit which causes the mobile unit to use a secondary speech coder when the loading on the processor exceeds a set value, wherein the secondary speech coder is compatible with a primary speech coder.

26. (Twice Amended) The wireless communication system of Claim 23, wherein
D6 encoded data may be decoded by a single decoder.

27. (Three Times Amended) A wireless communication system comprising;
D7 a signal strength indicator which determines the quality of a signal received by a mobile unit; and